

A NEW VARIETY OF *SALVIA BETULIIFOLIA* (LABIATAE)

James L. Reveal

University of Maryland, College Park 20742  
and

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

&

William J. Hess

Newark State College, Union, New Jersey 07083

During recent botanical explorations into northern Mexico in search of *Eriogonum* (Polygonaceae), we made small collections of additional species which were of interest to us, or from areas that seemed to be botanically unusual. Amongst our material obtained in 1971 and 1972 is a large-flowered variant of *Salvia betuliifolia* Epl. It may be known as:

*Salvia betuliifolia* Epl. var. *chasmema* Reveal & Hess, var. nov.

A var. *betuliifolia* corollis longioribus 4-5.5 cm longis (nec 3.4-4 (4.5) cm longis), calycibus grandioribus 17-25 mm longis (nec 13-19 mm longis) differt.

TYPE.--MEXICO: Durango: Along the dirt road from Hidalgo del Parral to El Vergel, about 47 miles west of Parral and 11.5 miles west of Ojito, Sierra Madre Occidental, among lava rocks and volcanic outcrops near the road and old wagon trail above the road, associated with *Pinus cembroides*, *P. leiophylla*, *Juniperus deppeana*, *Quercus*, and *Arbutus*, at 8000 feet elevation, 12 September 1972, Reveal & Hess 3037. Holotype, US! Isotypes, 15 isotypes to be distributed from US. See figure. Illustration by D.E. Barger.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS SEEN: MEXICO: Durango: Along the road from Hidalgo del Parral to El Vergel, 12.6 miles west of Ojito, 11 August 1971, Reveal, Hess & Kiger 2748 (MEXU, NY, US).

The var. *chasmema* (Greek, yawn or gape - as to the large and conspicuous flowers) occurs at a slightly higher elevation (8000 to 8500 feet) in the Sierra Madre Occidental than var. *betuliifolia* (6000 to 7500 feet) and flowers somewhat earlier (August to September) than the typical variant (September to November). The leaves of var. *chasmema* are somewhat larger and more densely pubescent, but these features appear to be highly variable in the field. The new variety may be recognized most readily by its larger flowers which have long, narrow upper and lower lips giving the illusion to a yawn.

Field work in Mexico is supported by National Science Foundation Grant GB-22645 to the senior author.



**Salvia betuliifolia var. chasmema**